



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/068,745	02/05/2002	Joel R. Goergen	3981-34	9219
7590	02/25/2004			
James E. Harris Marger Johnson & McCollom, P.C. 1030 S.W. Morrison Street Portland, OR 97205				
EXAMINER NGUYEN, DONGHAI D				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3729				

DATE MAILED: 02/25/2004

7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/068,745

Applicant(s)

GOERGEN, JOEL R.

Examiner

Donghai D. Nguyen

Art Unit

3729

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 13-24 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 4-12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2.3.5.6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-12, drawn to a method of fabricating a multi-layer circuit board, classified in class 29, subclass 831.
 - II. Claims 13-17, drawn to a method of fabricating a multi-layer circuit board, classified in class 29, subclass 846.
 - III. Claims 18-24, drawn to a method of fabricating a multi-layer circuit board, classified in class 29, subclass 852.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

2. Inventions Group II and Groups I and III are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because Group II does not require the first layer arrangement of the Groups I and III. The subcombination has separate utility such as a printed circuit board.
3. Inventions Group I and Group II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention Group I has separate utility such as a multi-layer circuit board comprising a power planes having thickness of three ounces per square foot copper. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group II is not required for Group I and III and vice versa, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

5. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

6. During a telephone conversation with James E. Harris on February 12, 2004 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-12. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 13-14 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 6,407,341 B1 to Anstrom et al in view of US Patent 4,771,366 to Blake et al.

Regarding claim 1, Anstrom et al disclose a method of fabricating a multi-layer circuit board (70), the method comprising: creating a first layer arrangement (71-73) comprising a plurality of high-speed differential trace layers (62) and a plurality of reference plane layers

Art Unit: 3729

(64/66) stacked in an interleaved fashion, each high-speed differential trace layer separated from each adjacent reference plane layer by a layer of a first dielectric material (top half of Fig. 7) creating a second layer (74) arrangement comprising at least two patterned power plane layers (52/55/59), stacked between layers of a second dielectric material (152) having better void-filling capability, during lamination under similar conditions, than the first dielectric material (Fig. 5); laminating the first and second layer arrangements together such that the first and second layer arrangements interface across a reference plane layer (Figs. 7 and 8)); and forming a large plurality of plated thru-holes (102, 105) distributed throughout the circuit board, the plated thru-holes electrically connecting the reference plane layers, while leaving the power plane layers electrically isolated from each other and from the reference plane layers, within the circuit board.

Anstrom et al do not disclose the power plane having a thickness at least equivalent to the thickness of three-ounces-per-square-foot copper; however, Blake et al teach that the thickness of the power plane is at least equivalent to the thickness of three-ounces-per-square-foot copper for providing lower power drop across power plane (Col. 8, lines 48-51). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Anstrom et al power plane to have the thickness of three-ounces-per-square-foot copper as taught by Blake et al for providing lower power drop across power plane.

Regarding claims 2 and 3, Anstrom et al disclose creating a third layer arrangement (75-77) and the second layer arrangement is substantially at the middle of the multi-layer circuit board (see Fig. 7).

Art Unit: 3729

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 4-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Donghai D. Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-7859. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (9:00-6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter D. Vo can be reached on (703) 308-1789. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DN



PETER VO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700